

friends with the food support they need when they need it most.

The food bank was established in Pittsburgh's Hill District at a time of painful change for our region, when the unemployment rate rose to almost 20 percent and the need for food assistance surged. Over the years, the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank has expanded to the point where today it works with hundreds of partner agencies in an 11-county area distributing millions of pounds of food to those who need it.

The organization's work has never been more important than in 2020, as COVID-19 has spread rapidly across the country, devastating our economy and leaving tens of millions of hard-working Americans unemployed. As a result, many Americans who had been living paycheck to paycheck before the pandemic were suddenly unable to afford their next meal. According to the Food Bank, food insecurity in Southwestern Pennsylvania increased 42 percent this year, including a 57 percent increase in childhood hunger. The Food Bank's response has been nothing short of lifesaving—having distributed more than 30 million pounds of food since March.

I want to commend the exemplary work that the food bank has done this year, and I can say unequivocally that many in our community would not be able to get through these hard times without the remarkable contribution it's made to the region.

My staff and I have worked closely with the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank over many years to support and improve federal anti-hunger programs. I participated in food distribution events recently where I met many community members whose lives were markedly improved by this organization's impressive work. The Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank has been recognized a number of times over the years for its outstanding work, including by America's Second Harvest, Charity Navigator, the Pennsylvania Association of Nonprofit Organizations, and the Congressional Hunger Center.

I want to commend and congratulate the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank on its 40th anniversary of outstanding service to our community. I thank its staff, affiliates, and volunteers for their tremendous service to the people of Pittsburgh and look forward to continuing to work with them to fight hunger in Southwestern Pennsylvania.

IN RECOGNITION OF PAT MCGRAIL

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 17, 2020

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Pat McGrail as he concludes over twenty years of public service, retiring as the longest-serving Mayor in the history of Keller, Texas.

Mayor McGrail's tenure prioritized a broad spectrum of accomplishments to build community and enhance Keller's overall quality of life. Mr. McGrail's Public Safety initiatives helped Keller earn national accreditation and honors, including consistent recognition as one of the safest communities in the country. These efforts included expansion of the Police station and the outdoor warning system, as well as

construction of the new Fire Station 1 and renovations to the existing fire stations. His leadership helped secure approval of the Town's first Crime Control & Prevention District, and arrange regional partnerships with neighboring cities, including 911 dispatch, jail, municipal court and animal control services that served to meet community needs in a creative and cost-savings manner.

Mr. McGrail's service reached beyond Public Safety to build and improve a number of other important municipal facilities and public assets. Early in his public life, he celebrated the opening of Keller's Town Hall as Councilman McGrail, the first of many facilities he would help deliver first-hand. Keller's Municipal Service Center and Public Library were two additional high-profile investments made during his service to the community. He was also among the critical Town leadership establishing The Keller Pointe fitness and aquatics center and realizing the new Keller Senior Activities Center with its recent groundbreaking. Additionally, several parks and trails have opened or been improved, such as Bear Creek Park, preserving the natural beauty of the area and adding to current and future recreational opportunities for local citizens.

Mayor McGrail has led the town through natural and economic challenges, including floods, recessions and the current COVID-19 pandemic. Throughout these immediate leadership tests, he has remained aware of the Town's future needs. A long-standing proponent of road and utility infrastructure investment, Mr. McGrail has sought to support the needs demanded of the growing North Texas communities while protecting public and private property from the natural events all well-managed Texas communities have learned to expect.

Through his decades of service, Mayor McGrail has experienced the celebrations, satisfaction, frustrations, and sharp elbows all in public service come to know. His vision, perseverance and dedication have left a permanent mark, supporting and enhancing the quality of life to lead Keller to national recognition among the Best Small Cities in America. On behalf of the 26th Congressional District, I wish him, his wife Pauline, and his family much joy in his next endeavors. Keller is a stronger, better Town because of your service.

IN HONOR OF TODD ALEXANDER

HON. JOHN JOYCE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 17, 2020

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Todd Alexander of Fulton County, Pennsylvania for his service to Pennsylvania's 13th Congressional District on the 2020 U.S. Service Academy Nomination Committee.

Nominating exceptional candidates to attend our nation's service academies is one of my most important responsibilities in Congress. During this process, I rely on members of the Service Academy Nomination Committee, which is comprised of dedicated volunteers who have served our nation with distinction.

Todd is one of nine academy alumni who graciously volunteered their time to meet with and evaluate perspective nominees for the

Class of 2025. As a graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland, Todd knows firsthand the qualities and dedication that are critical for succeeding at the academies. He provided wise counsel and expertise throughout the nominating process, and I am grateful for his time and commitment.

Todd Alexander is an outstanding Pennsylvanian and American, as well as an excellent role model for future academy students. On behalf of the 13th District of Pennsylvania, it is my honor to recognize Todd for his service to our community and our nation.

IN APPRECIATION OF MILAGROS CISNEROS' WORK WITH THE HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 17, 2020

Mr. NADLER. Madam Speaker, today, as the Chairman of the Committee on the Judiciary, I join with Representative KAREN BASS, Chair of the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security, in expressing our appreciation for Milagros Cisneros' work with the Committee over the past two years.

Milagros came to us as a detailee from the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, having worked for nearly sixteen years as an Assistant Federal Public Defender in Phoenix, Arizona, representing indigent clients in federal criminal cases. Prior to starting her career as a public defender, Milagros attended Bryn Mawr College and the Arizona State University College of Law.

At the conclusion of her detail to the Committee, she will be resuming her work in the Federal Defender's office in Phoenix, Arizona.

As counsel to the Committee's Democrats, Milagros provided indispensable analysis and advice concerning oversight hearings and a wide range of proposed legislation concerning various issues, such as criminal justice reform, prison reform, reforming our drug laws, combatting violence against women, immigration-related issues, tribal justice issues, and the federal death penalty. Her works was particularly instrumental in obtaining passage of the Effective Assistance of Counsel in the Digital Era Act, the Marijuana Opportunity Reinvestment and Expungement (MORE) Act, and important provisions in the CARES Act and HEROES Act to protect incarcerated individuals from the COVID-19 pandemic.

As the Committee continued its effort to reform our criminal justice system, Milagros' experience as a federal defender informed our legislative and oversight efforts, particularly with respect to issues related to the Department of Justice's implementation of the FIRST STEP Act.

We have appreciated and benefited from Milagros' energy, enthusiasm, and insight over the past two years, during which she became an integral part of our team. We will miss her.

We thank Milagros for her selfless service to the Committee, and we wish her the best as she continues her career.